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JUL 02 2004

In re Application of
Berque
Application No. 09/899,431
Filed: July 3, 2001
Attorney Docket No. 137-2

: OFFICE OF PETITIONS
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: DECISION ON PETITION
: UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6)
:

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6), filed December 28, 2003, to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) for the benefit of the prior-filed provisional applications set forth in the concurrently filed amendment.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

A petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000. Further, the petition is appropriate only after expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5)(ii) and must be filed during the pendency of the nonprovisional application. In addition, the petition must be accompanied by:

- (1) the reference required by 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5)(i) to the prior-filed application, unless previously submitted;
- (2) the surcharge set forth in § 1.17(t); and
- (3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. The Commissioner may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

The instant pending nonprovisional application was filed on July 3, 2003, within twelve months of the filing date of the prior-filed provisional application No. 60/257,221, which was filed on December 21, 2000, and provisional application No. 60/265,359 filed January 31, 2001, for which priority is claimed. A reference to the prior-filed provisional applications has been included in an amendment to the first sentence of the specification following the title.

The instant nonprovisional application was filed after November 29, 2000, and the claim for

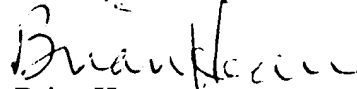
priority herein is submitted after expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5)(ii). Also, the reference to the prior-filed provisional applications was submitted during the pendency of the nonprovisional application for which the benefit is sought. See 35 U.S.C. §119(e). Accordingly, having found that the instant petition satisfies the conditions of 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6) for acceptance of an unintentionally delayed claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. §119(e), the petition to accept an unintentionally delayed claim of benefit to prior-filed provisional application Nos. 60/60/257,221, and 60/265,359 is granted.

The granting of the petition to accept the delayed benefit claim to the prior-filed application under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6) should not be construed as meaning that the instant application is entitled to the benefit of the filing date of the prior-filed application. In order for the instant application to be entitled to the benefit of the prior-filed application, all other requirements under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(4) and (a)(5) must be met. Similarly, the fact that the corrected Filing Receipt accompanying this decision on petition includes the prior-filed application should not be construed as meaning that applicant is entitled to the claim for benefit of priority to the prior-filed application noted thereon. Accordingly, the examiner will, in due course, consider this benefit claim and determine whether the instant application is entitled to the benefit of the earlier filing date.

A corrected Filing Receipt, which includes the priority claim to the prior-filed provisional application, accompanies this decision on petition.

Any inquiries concerning this decision may be directed to the undersigned at (703) 305-1820.

The application is being forwarded to Technology Center AU 2173 for appropriate action on the amendment submitted December 29, 2003, including consideration by the examiner of the claim under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) for the benefit of priority to prior-filed provisional Application Nos. 60/257,221 and provisional application No. 60/265,359.



Brian Hearn
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions
Office of the Deputy Commissioner
for Patent Examination Policy

ATTACHMENT: Corrected Filing Receipt